



# The Facts on Natural Gas



Natural gas is a colorless, odorless, chemical used as fuel and is generally considered safe. However, it is flammable and dangerous if a leak occurs.



Mercaptan is the harmless chemical added to natural gas to give it a rotten egg like smell. This is added to help detect a potential leak.



Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced by appliances and motors that may use natural gas. Unlike natural gas, CO is poisonous. Learn more: <https://www.jeffreysfoundation.org>

## Signs of a Gas Leak

- Rotten egg odor
- Dirt/debris being blown in the air
- Flames, if a leak has ignited
- A hissing, whistling, or roaring sound near a gas appliance or pipeline
- Discolored or dead vegetation over or near a pipeline
- Persistent bubbles in streams, ponds, or wet areas

## If a Leak Occurs

- Immediately leave the area
- Warn others to stay away
- Call 9-1-1 from a safe place

## If You Smell Gas, DO NOT:

- Attempt to turn gas valves on or off
- Turn any electric switch on or off (this could cause a spark and ignite the gas)
- Use electronic devices, including any phone, garage door opener, or flashlight
- Start or stop nearby vehicles or other machinery
- Smoke, use a lighter, or strike a match

